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Services Planned for Mario Ugalde, 31-Year Metro Veteran

(May 22, 2008) Mario Ugalde, a Gateway Division 10 mechanic A, has died from a weakened immune system caused by a recent kidney transplant. He was 56.

Ugalde, who started working with RTD in December 1977, was known for his technical skills and his dedication to his job. In the last few years, he was the head of the Air Conditioning group at Division 10.

"Every one recognized his deep understanding of refrigeration and his 'special touch' in diagnosing difficult cases," said Frank Lonyai, Division 10 maintenance manager.

Ugalde is survived by his wife, Diane, five children and four grandchildren.

The family plans a private ceremony.

"I consider myself very fortunate to be a friend of Mario," said Pete Lujan, also a Division 10 mechanic A. "Mario always reminded me [to be] good at what you do and you will have a job."

Lujan remembers Ugalde as an avid outdoorsman who liked camping, fishing, hunting and archery sharp shooting.

"I miss my friend," recalled Lujan. "Not just the great fights we had but the great talks we both enjoyed."



Mario Ugalde was an avid outdoorsman. (Photo by Fidel Hernandez)